

REMARKS

Claims 17-19, 21, 23, 32-34 and 36 are currently pending with claims 17, 18, 32, 33 and 36 being in independent form. Claim 23 has been canceled.

Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 17-19, 21, 32-34 and 36 are allowed. As Applicants have canceled claim 23, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and that the outstanding rejections should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,821,833 to CHOU et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,700,170 to MOROSAWA et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants traverse this basis of rejection for at least the reasons already made of record. However, in view of the fact that the above-noted claim has been canceled in order to advance prosecution of the allowed claims, Applicants submit that this basis of rejection is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above-noted rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the instant Amendment and the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if needed. Authorization is hereby given to refund excess payments and charge any additional fee necessary to have this paper entered to Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay S. Burnham et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Calderon', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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